



"STANDING UP TO IT."

The 1st Wis. Battery had a lively time at Thompson's Hill.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Some years ago a discussion was carried on through your columns as to who took two guns at Thompson's Hill. First one comrade claimed the honor for his regiment, and then another, and we began to think we were not in the fight at all until it developed that it was other guns under discussion.

The incident of the wreck of two guns on the left of our division has never been written for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, and I make except from the history of the 1st Wis. battery, to be published some day.

At daylight we heard the throb of rebel artillery and the answering guns of Lamphere's battery, and stepped out right brisk. At sunrise Gen. Osterhaus met us in a dip between two hills, halted, and told us to get some coffee, quick.

Down came a rail fence, and fires were blazing in a minute. We had started the day before with five days' cooked rations. In another minute Aid came down and urged dispatch. In three or four more Osterhaus tore down with:

"I can wait no longer, boys; come mit me. I needs you."

Filling our canteens with the boiling fluid, and holding them out at a respectful distance, we hurried up the hill, Osterhaus telling Lieut. Kimball, who commanded the battery, what a superior place he had for us, and expatiating upon its advantages.

Going up the hill we met an occasional soldier hurrying to the rear with a brisk step and business air, who halted:

"What's your boys?" and in answer invariably cried:

"Give 'em —"

On various occasions thereafter we met similar business men, and this colloquy always ensued. Why this fierce desire for us to monopolize the hill, and our and their self-interest in participating is not yet made clear.

We topped the hill and filed around an orchard, in which were the caissons and a disabled gun of Lamphere's battery and some dead and wounded. Around the orchard and down a grade, we left the caissons and four guns, and topped the crest of the incline with the right section, under command of Orderly-Sergeant Aymer, meeting more of Lamphere's disabled guns, and men carrying the wounded out on stretchers.



THE FIRES WERE BLAZING IN A MINUTE.

This was new experience to us. Heretofore in our fights we had gotten into them with our skirmish-line, or a little in advance of it. In front of us was Lamphere's battery, with one gun, waving an unequal duel with two rebel guns, the field dotted with dead, men helping comrades to the rear, and a regiment to our right front unslinging knapsacks preparatory to going in.

As Gen. Osterhaus led us in front of that battery, some of us began to doubt his judgment as to what might be the desirable places of this earth. Into battery we went with a rush, and Gabe Armstrong smashed a shell into them that killed five horses.

"What's your boys?" cried I to Butler, gunner of the left of the right, and burst a shell where he would do the most good.

In seven minutes the rebel guns were dismounted, their Chief of Artillery, Lieutenant commanding the battery, several men, and every horse killed. At the crash of the first gun the infantry turned in their tracks, cheered, and plunged into the timber in their front.

A Lieutenant soon after coming to the rear, stood the hand, stopped to tell us of the dread he had from the anticipated canon of that rebel battery; but that when they looked back at our first report, all four were moved upon recognizing the old battery.

Rebel Gen. Bowen, knowing the ground, interspersed with hills, timber, and canebrakes, handled his troops with consummate skill. As our column came up regiments were distributed toward the right, while we retired to a plum grove a few paces distant, leaving our guns in battery, and idly listened to our infantry to right and left in the timber hold their own.

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They dropped among us, ricocheted over us, and burst in admirable style for the other fellows. We had to fire at their smoke, being unable to see their guns in the woods.

A. W. Clark went down with a bad wound of the leg, a case shot ball went through Phil Welch from breast to back, and Jim McGill got his death. Aymer clung to the works with a peculiar viciousness and the boys put up a style of fighting that won heavy applause from Logan's regiments to our left.

Amid the din Lieut. Hackett's voice rang out: "Fire slow, boys. Keep cool. D—'em, if we can't whip 'em we'll tire 'em out."

The long line of infantry broke cover with a heavy Northern cheer, marched straight to the snappy rebel yell, and went sweeping over the field. The rebel battery ceased firing and their line melted away. The first battle of the Vicksburg campaign—the most brilliant campaign ever fought on the American continent—was won.

We sauntered over to view our molder of the morning, for it is a wonder, and remark that this was a May Day party without any of this "if you're waking, call me early, mother," business about it. It was march all right.

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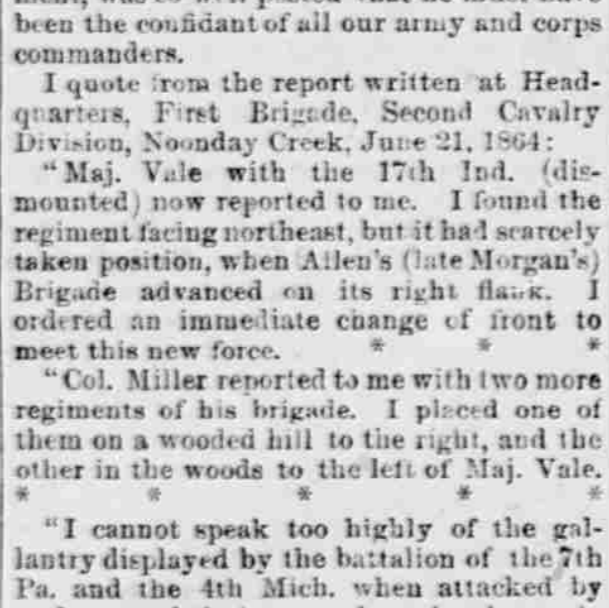
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PROUD OF THEIR LOSSES.

Hoosiers and Green Mountain Boys "Show Their Scars."

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: In the issue of July 11 Comrade J. S. Chandler, 5th Vt., writes that he would like to see a report of the losses of the Iron Brigade. In compliance I submit the following tabular statement:

	Killed and mortally wounded.	Percent of killed to number engaged.	Wounded.	Total killed and wounded.	Percent killed and wounded to total engaged.	Total engaged.	Died in Confederate prisons.	Died of disease.
24 Wis.	286 19 7	31%	780 62 4	1 063 73	69	60		
6th Wis.	281 17 2	28%	750 14 6	1 031 32	59	60		
7th Wis.	281 17 2	28%	750 14 6	1 031 32	59	60		
10th Ind.	129 15 3	21%	712 35 1	841 50	40	109		
24th Mich.	129 15 3	21%	712 35 1	841 50	40	109		
Total.	1 151 15 6	27%	2 987 91 2	4 138 87	47%	472		

As the Iron Brigade consisted of the first four regiments until September, 1862, when the 24th Mich. joined their fortunes with us.

In the Fall of 1864 the brigade was disbanded, the regiments being either mustered out or assigned to other corps.

The Vermont Brigade originally consisted of five regiments, the 11th having joined them in May, 1864, the brigade holding its organization from 1861 to 1865.

In comparing the losses of the two brigades, in justice to the Vermont Brigade we leave the 11th out, as including it would very materially decrease the per cent. On the basis of the total enrollment of the brigade was 8,556; number killed and died of wounds, 908, which would make the number killed and mortally wounded to the whole number enrolled 11.1, as against the Iron Brigade's 15.

As the above statement shows the Iron Brigade had 117 who died in Confederate prisons, and 472 died of disease. The comrade says:

"I have never yet heard of a greater percentage of losses than what Co. E, 5th Vt., suffered at Savage Station, June 29, 1862, after a march of only six days, and after only one day's fighting. Of the 100 men, only one Sergeant, one Corporal, and one private for duty."

The Hoosier 19th will go to the Green Mountain 5th just a little better. At the battle of Gettysburg, the first day, the 19th Ind. went into action, as the morning report shows, with 310 men, which would be an average of 31 men to each company. That evening Co. H, 19th Ind., had just one man left—Second Lieut. Scarborough.

As the comrade rightly says, it is of no use to make comparisons, where each organization simply performed their duty as opposed to what they did for themselves, or the exigencies of the service required.

We are proud of the record of the old Iron Brigade because we were one of it, but we would not detract one jot or tittle from the brilliant record of the old Green Mountain Brigade. I only present this statement as the comrade's own request—JULIUS WALDSCHMIDT, Second Lieutenant, Co. G, 19th Ind., South Bend, Ind.

HISTORIC GROUND.

Changes Time Has Made in Some of the Scenes of War's Alarms.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: During the many months when Gen. Butler was "bottled" in Bermuda Hundred, I was on duty in the Engineer's Office at Headquarters, Gen. George Warren being Chief Engineer on Butler's staff. This was in the Spring of 1864, and just before the springing of the mine from which so much was expected, and from which so little was realized.

One lovely day in June an officer on duty with me at Headquarters walked over nearly to the James River. It was Sunday, and the unwelcome quiet prevailed. For a wonder, there was on that day no cannonade, even at a distance, to disturb the Sabbath quiet.

In a little sheltered nook, lying in the bend of the river, were the horses of a battery. The guns were near, and the men were bivouacking in the shade or picking the blackberries which grew in profusion around. A field of wheat nearby, still untrampled by the march of men and horses, was almost ready for the sickle. The house to which the ground apparatus was nearby, but partially dismantled. Much of the furniture was gone, and the house had been evidently been making free with the comforts of what had once been a pleasant home.

We went upstairs. There the work of spoliation had apparently stayed, for some of the furniture still remained, among it an old-fashioned secretary. The house was opened. This we found several thousand dollars' worth of rebel money in scrip bonds and other forms, all payable on the conclusion of a treaty between the United States of America and the Confederate States. There was also a good deal of money in bonds of State banks, and some dependent on the same treaty proviso, and of course, equally worthless.

We went up the broken ladder to a fine observatory, which commanded a view for miles distant as the creek flows. The city itself was visible, and the house of the smoke pointed out its whereabouts. We had a fine view of our own and the rebel lines; could see Beauregard's troops behind their intrenchments; could see men at work strengthening weak places in the lines, and could see the rebel defenses for miles on every side. The rebel camp, and the house of the smoke pointed out its whereabouts. We had a fine view of our own and the rebel lines; could see Beauregard's troops behind their intrenchments; could see men at work strengthening weak places in the lines, and could see the rebel defenses for miles on every side. The rebel camp, and the house of the smoke pointed out its whereabouts. 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